



***Gendered Bodies on Trial:  
Exploring Litigation Strategies in the Early Soviet People's Court***  
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This paper draws on under-researched criminal investigation materials from the early Soviet period that have recently been transferred to the Central State Archive of St. Petersburg (TsGA SPb). Focusing on a particularly evocative 1920 criminal case, I trace the prescription and negotiation of gendered emotions across the revolutionary divide and shed light on the different emotional strategies that male and female defendants used while trying to navigate the affective atmospheres of the early Soviet courtroom. In doing so, I pay particular attention to the affective, emotional and corporeal dimensions of belonging and exclusion and approach the courtroom as a space that is central to the process of marginalization yet at the same time retains possibilities for negotiation, subversion and the destabilization of gender identities and hierarchies. Re-emphasizing the material conditions of revolutionary Petrograd, the paper provides a new perspective on gender, crime and the administration of justice in that turbulent period.